

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Effigy Mounds National Monument**

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***Phalaris arundinacea* Eastern Herbaceous Vegetation**

COMMON NAME	Reed Canary Grass Eastern Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Reed Canary Grass Eastern Marsh
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Seasonally flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.k)
ALLIANCE	PHALARIS ARUNDINACEA SEASONALLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Seasonally flooded temperate or subpolar grassland

**CONCEPT SUMMARY**

***Globally***

This association is found throughout the northeastern United States and Canada, but its distribution as a natural type is complicated elsewhere. It is native to the United States and Canada, but is now more widely distributed and abundant because of local introductions from both local and European populations. The introduced strains may be a more aggressive ecotype than native strains. Stands are found in both minerotrophic basin wetlands as well as river shores. It has been widely used as a forage and hay crop, especially in marshes and floodplains, and is used for wildlife food, for shoreline and ditch stabilization. Stands are dominated by *Phalaris arundinacea*, a 0.5–2-m tall perennial grass, which tends to occur in monocultures or associated with *Calamagrostis canadensis*. Other associates in the northeast include *Viburnum nudum*, *Alnus incana* or *Alnus serrulata*, *Viburnum dentatum*, and *Agrostis gigantea*. Midwest associates include species characteristic of wet meadows. *Phalaris arundinacea* can displace native species over time. Further work is required to resolve the natural versus introduced nature of this type in the southeast before a description can be completed.

**RANGE**

***Effigy Mounds National Monument***

This community is found along the Mississippi and Yellow Rivers.

***Globally***

This association is found throughout the northeastern United States and Canada, but its distribution as a natural type is complicated elsewhere. It currently ranges from Virginia north to Vermont, east to Minnesota and south to Tennessee.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION**

***Effigy Mounds National Monument***

This community is found on terraces of the Yellow River, and along shores and on islands in the nearby backwaters of the Mississippi River.

***Globally***

Stands are found in both minerotrophic basin wetlands as well as river shores. It has been widely used as a forage and hay crop, especially in marshes and floodplains, and is used for wildlife food, for shoreline and ditch stabilization (Barnes 1999).

**MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES**

***Effigy Mounds National Monument***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
HERBACEOUS	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>

***Globally***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
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**CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES**

***Effigy Mounds National Monument***

*Phalaris arundinacea*

***Globally***

**VEGETATION DESCRIPTION**

***Effigy Mounds National Monument***

*Phalaris* forms near monotypic stands. Bottomland hardwood tree species such as *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* or *Ulmus* spp. may be present at very low cover. Herbaceous species characteristic of wet meadows may also be present.

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#### **Globally**

Stands are dominated by *Phalaris arundinacea*, a 0.5–2-m tall perennial grass that is native to the United States and Canada, but which has also been introduced from European strains. The introduced strains may be a more aggressive ecotype than native strains (Barnes 1999). It tends to occur in monocultures or associated with *Calamagrostis canadensis*. Other associates in the Northeast include *Viburnum nudum*, *Alnus incana* or *Alnus serrulata*, *Viburnum dentatum*, and *Agrostis gigantea*. Midwest associates include species characteristic of wet meadows. *Phalaris arundinacea* can displace native species over time (Apfelbaum and Sams 1987, Barnes 1999, and references therein). Further work is required to resolve the natural versus introduced nature of this type in the Southeast before a description can be completed.

#### OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK    GW.

DATABASE CODE        CEGL006044

#### COMMENTS

#### **Effigy Mounds National Monument**

*Phalaris* stands are similar to some degraded *Acer saccharinum* stands where the tree cover is low.

#### **Globally**

#### REFERENCES

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